Greg A. Priddy EMG Mobile Recording (216) 974-5942

OMRI DAILY DIGEST
No. 27, 7 February 1995

**"ARMY HAS FULFILLED ITS TASKS IN CHECHNYA" -- GRACHEV.** Meeting with military leaders in Moscow on 6 February, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev asserted that the army had fulfilled its task in Chechnya by establishing control over the last remaining Chechen stronghold in Grozny, Interfax reported. A military source in Mozdok told Interfax on the same day that Russian troops had succeeded in blocking the main roads into Grozny, thus preventing the transport of arms and supplies to the remaining Chechen fighters. He also predicted the Russian military would formally hand over the Chechen territory under its control to the Russian Interior Ministry "within ten days." -- Liz Fuller, OMRI, Inc.

**MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE DECISION TO INTERVENE IN CHECHNYA COME TO LIGHT.** The head of President Yeltsin's Analytical Center, Emil Pain, and a consultant to the center, Arkady Popov, have published a report describing the decision to intervene in Chechnya, Interfax reported on 7 February. The two experts claim they had presented a plan for the peaceful resolution of the conflict which was ultimately rejected. The plan proposed economic and social support for the three northern regions of Chechnya, where the population had demonstrated sympathy for remaining within the Russian Federation in September 1994. The goal was to improve conditions in this part of Chechnya so that when elections were held in the republic, residents would be able to make a clear choice between staying within Russia or leaving it. The plan sought to strengthen the position of Umar Avturkhanov, in his capacity as head of the Nadterechny Regional Administration, and make public Moscow's attempts to help the loyal regions. The advisers claim the Security Council's power ministers rejected this plan because they did not want to deal with "either the Chechen opposition or political partners deserving respect and confidence." Much of the presidential apparatus and many of Yeltsin's advisers were excluded from reviewing the military plans for Chechnya. Deputy Prime Minister and then Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Nikolai Egorov did not inform his ministry's board of the secret plans. As a result, Deputy Minister for Nationalities Vyacheslav Mikhailov, appointed head of the negotiating delegation, went to Mozdok without knowing that the war would begin before he could start his work. The experts said the media's critical reaction drove the generals and politicians who supported the policy to even more cruel actions. -- Robert Orttung, OMRI, Inc.

**LUKIN FORESEES ECONOMIC SANCTIONS OVER CHECHNYA.** Russia may become the target of economic sanctions as a result of Chechnya, according to Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs, Interfax reported on 6 February. He based his conclusion on the Council of Europe's decision to defer consideration of Russia's application for membership. -- Michael Mihalka, OMRI, Inc.